

NEW LONGICORN *COLEOPTERA*, CHIEFLY FROM MEXICO.

BY H. W. BATES, F.R.S.

Two of the following species are additions of great interest to the Coleopterous Fauna of Mexico, for specimens of which I am indebted to the liberality of Mr. Julius Flohr. I have added descriptions of a few new species of *Deltaspis*, a New World genus, allied to our European *Purpuricenus*, which have also been recently received.

PYRODES MACULICOLLIS.

Oblongus, aenescenti-niger, thorace grosse intricato-rugoso, nitido, utrinque apud angulos anticos macula aurantiaco-flava; clytris vermiculato-rugulosis subopacis, ♂ aeneo-fuscis anguste indistincte rufo-marginatis, ♀ fulvo-rufis. Antennæ utroque sexu corpore breviores, purpurco-cuprææ vel cyanæ, articulis 3—10 ♂ subcylindricis robustis, ♀ apicem versus gradatim dilatatis.

Long., ♂, 30—33 mm., ♀, 38—50 mm.

Canelos, State of Durango, Mexico.

This fine northern species of *Pyrodes* differs in no essential point of structure from the type of the genus, *P. speciosus*, of S. Brazil. The antennæ in the ♂ are of similar form to those of *P. speciosus*, ♀, being only a little longer, and the joints a little broader. In the ♀ the width of the joints is still greater, especially towards their apices. In the very small difference as to length and form the antennæ of the new species most resemble those of *Mallaspis xanthaspis* and *rhombodera*. The head is porrect, parallel-sided, coarsely rugose, and with the central furrow and the concavity of the forehead much deeper than in *P. speciosus*. The thorax is as broad as the elytra, dilated and rounded (with edge serrated) immediately from the anterior angles and to the very sharp lateral spine, after which it is abruptly narrowed. The scutellum is moderately large, acute-angular, coarsely rugose, and channelled down the middle. The elytra are broadly rounded at the apex, with a short sutural spine.

ESMERALDA COSTULATA.

E. columbinæ (Guér.) affinis, paullo lator, aurato-viridis resplendens, clytris utrinque costulis laevibus quatuor nec basin nec apicem attingentibus; subtus viridi-cyanca polita.

Long., 25 mm., ♀.

River Madeira, Amazons (Coll., Bates).

Rather more broadly oblong than individuals of the same sex of *E. columbina* and *E. latifica*. The central groove of the head is broad and deep; the antennæ reach to more than half the length of the elytra, joints 3—10 being compressed and triangular, with inner apices

produced. The thorax is short and very broad, very uneven, the disc having a broad, transversely-placed, trilobed groove or pit, coarsely punctured like the sides, the elevated parts of the disc being smooth. The extremely large scutellum has a few punctures; the elytra are shagreened between the polished costæ and near the apex, where the costæ terminate in irregular ramifications. The base of the elytra is very sparingly and more coarsely punctured. The prosternum differs from that of the other two species in being conically and strongly elevated between the branches.

VESPEROCTENUS, *nov. gen.*

Gen. Vespero (Latr.) affinis, a quo differt inter alia antennis, ♂, longe pectinatis elytrisque utroque sexu corporis apicem attingentibus.

This anomalous form of Longicorn is, without doubt, closely allied to the European genus *Vesperus*, although beyond the pallid colour and the softness of the integuments there is little general resemblance. The head is transverse-quadrate behind the eyes, in both sexes, and the neck suddenly constricted. The eyes, as in *Vesperus*, are coarsely faceted, but they are more reniform, being sinuated on the upper inner edge. In the ♀, which can be most easily examined owing to its freedom from the dense pile of the ♂, the forehead below the antennæ emits a laminiform projecting ledge, deeply notched in front, below which is the subvertical epistome, followed by the articulated labrum, densely ciliated on its front edge. The mandibles are long, porrect, curved only near the apex, and irregularly dentated on their inner side, with an angle (indicating the commencement of a tooth) on the outer edge at the bend; in miniature they resemble the mandibles of *Macrodonia cervicornis*. The palpi are elongate, the terminal joint short, ovate. The thorax is similar in form to that of *V. Xatarti*, ♀, but a little more dilated behind; in the ♂ it is short and trapezoidal. The pronotum has no lateral margin. The elytra are elongate-cuneiform, nearly as in *Toxotus*. The anterior coxæ are strongly exerted and parallel. The elytra are entire in both sexes, and of thin, flexible texture. The legs are slender, the tarsi four-jointed: the first much the longest, and, like the second, with produced apical angles; in the third joint the angles are still more produced; the true fourth joint is visible as a small nodule at the base of the claw joint. The hindmost legs in the ♀ are widely separated at their base. In the ♂ the abdomen is short and conical. The antennæ in the ♀ are 12-jointed, filiform, simple, about half the length of the body; in the ♂ they are equally 12-jointed, three-fourths the length

of the body, the joints third to the eleventh emitting at their apices a long, linear, and compressed branch quadruple the length of the stem of the joint, except the branch of the eleventh, which is equalled in length by the extremely long twelfth joint.

Mr. Flohr informs me that the specimens were taken by Mr. Becker at night, by spreading a white sheet on the ground and lighting a fire, which attracts them; they come out of the ground after the manner of the *Cebrios* and *Scaptoleni*. Their habits are, no doubt, similar to those of the *Vesperis*, which are subterranean in their early stages.

VESPEROCTENUS FLOHRI, n. sp.

Pallide fusco-testaceus, tenuiter pubescens elytris glabris; ♂, capite et thorace dense fulvo-sericeo-lanuginosis, hoc medio penicillis elongatis obscurioribus quatuor, elytris grosse coriaceis subcostulatis. Long., 22 mm.

Durango, Mexico (*Becker*), communicated by Mr. Julius Flohr.

DELTASPIS DISPARILIS.

Subcylindrica, nigra; ♂ thorace (marginibus incrassatis anticis et postico nigris exceptis) elytris prosterno et abdomine rubris, ♀ abdomine solum rubro elytrorum epipleuris rufescentibus. Long., 19—20 mm.

Canelas, in Durango (*Flohr*).

Of the numerous allied species this approaches nearest in mode of punctuation to *D. nigripennis*. The head is very coarsely and irregularly, the thorax strongly but separately, punctured, with smooth elevated spaces, and without trace of lateral tubercle. The elytra are a little more finely, and much more densely, punctured, and clothed with short tawny hairs, the apex of each bisinuate-truncated. The thorax is more elongate, ovate-quadrangle, than in the allied species.

DELTASPIS MARGINELLA.

Minor, anguste cylindrica, opaca, thorace abdomine (interdum corpore subtus toto) vittaque epipleurali late rufis; capite, elytris suprà, antennis et pedibus nigris; thorace subalveolato-punctato lateribus medio plus minusve angulatis. Long., 11—12 mm., ♂ ♀.

Canelas, in Durango (*Flohr*).

As in *D. alutacea*, the thorax, though glabrous, has a peculiar opaque surface, on which the punctuation is with some difficulty determinable. It is very close, even on the nodular elevations. The elytra are finely pubescent, and very densely but separately punctulated; the apex is obliquely and obtusely truncated; the red vitta on the epipleura is very broad at the shoulder, and gradually tapering to beyond the middle, where it ceases.

DELTASPIS VARIABILIS.

Closely allied to *D. marginella*, but readily distinguished by its more or less shining thorax, on which the similar subalveolate punctation is readily detected: the lateral angle or tubercle is generally prominent, but is sometimes (as in other species of the genus) absent. The colour is variable, the thorax, generally bright red with blue-black anterior and posterior borders, is sometimes suffused with the dark colour. The elytra, finely and densely punctured, are red, sometimes with broad basal and sutural blue-black margins, or wholly blue-black, with the epipleuræ alone red. Long., 10—14 mm, ♂ ♀.

State of Guerrero, Mexico (*Baron*), communicated by Mr. Harford.

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ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE CLAWS
IN *STERNOCÆLIS* AND *HETÆRIUS*, AND NOTES ON THE
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIES.

BY GEORGE LEWIS, F.L.S.

The claws of *Sternocælis* are stout and single on all the tarsi, but I only observed this character in March, when I had some living specimens to study for a few days. This character will hereafter serve well to distinguish the genus from *Hetærius*, in addition to the concavity common to the meso- and metasterna. The claws are short, and being robust, the speculation that they have gradually become connate might seem legitimate if I could see any sign of a suture, but as far as I can tell the claw is solid. *Eretmotus* also has only a single claw, and perhaps the enlargement of one claw in both cases has been the cause of the disappearance of the second. In *Hetærius* the claws are slender, each tarsus, like those of the majority of beetles, bearing two, and I see a similar structure in *Satrapes*, the genus which of all the *Histeridæ* most resembles it. In *Hetærius* and *Sternocælis* the two basal joints of the antennæ are evidently connate, as a suture remains and shows the limit of each joint. As regards *Hetærius*, Dr. G. H. Horn has pointed out this, and has given us figures of the antennæ, but in the case of the claws in *Sternocælis* it seems to me that either one has grown large, its growth causing the waste and final destruction of the other, or that at no period has there been a second, and that there is nothing available at the moment to guide any one to a solution of this problem. The other genera with single claws that I know of in the *Histeridæ* are *Monoplius*, which contains